

What I Learned

As part of this course, each student focused on a specific area/engineering feat from Ancient Greece. I chose to study the Sanctuary at Delphi and the Oracle that resided there. Many of the ruins from this sanctuary remain on the mountainside, including parts of the temples, treasuries, and stadium. The architecture and durability of these structures is inspiring to me as an engineer, not to mention very cool.



Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi

Motivation

I have always wanted to travel to Greece, to visit Athens and the Parthenon, and to study the ancient Greek civilizations. By choosing this trip, I wanted to increase my global awareness by learning about and engaging with a new culture. I also wanted to increase my understanding of engineering by studying its beginnings in Greece and learning the tools and methods they used. Besides being an engineering student, I am also a classical humanities minor, studying Greek civilization. This program was a great way to merge my two courses of study and enrich my academic experience at OSU.

Engineering of Ancient Greece

Project Overview

For my STEP project, I participated in a two-week education abroad trip to Greece as part of the ENGR 5797.18 course in May 2019. As part of this course, I researched and explored the engineering wonders of Ancient Greece and learned about the construction methods used by Ancient Greek engineers. During my time spent in Greece, I was able to travel to various cities and islands throughout the country, exploring temples, museums, and ruins while experiencing modern Greek culture.



The Parthenon in Athens



Theatre of Epidauros

Transformation

This was my first time traveling to another country in which one of the main purposes was to explore and experience the culture. As a tourist, I was excited to see the sights and try new things. Since I felt this way, I assumed that the Greek people would also be reverent towards their heritage. Instead, although these monuments literally sat in their backyard, many took them for granted. It gave me a new appreciation for my own heritage and nation's history.

Additionally, as a Classical Humanities minor, I have spent a lot of time studying the civilizations of Ancient Greece and their cultures. Ancient civilizations have always fascinated me more than modern ones but on this trip, I learned that they can be equally intriguing. We were fortunate enough to be able to experience many aspects of the traditional Greek culture firsthand, such as traditional meals and dances. Through these experiences, I gained a greater appreciation for another modern culture.

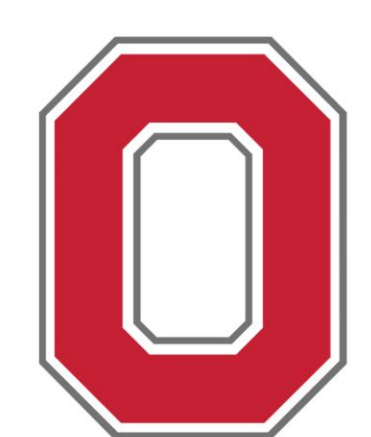
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The Olympic Stadium in Athens

Favorite Experience

My favorite part of experience was probably the time we spent exploring the ruins in Athens. Even though we were only there for a day or so, this was the city with the most sites to see. It was a dream come true to visit the Parthenon and walk up the steps to the Acropolis. In addition, I was able to visit the original stadium for the Modern Olympic games, built on the site where the Ancient Olympic games were held. I was finally able to experience many of the historical sites I had only read about in history books. The pictures I took and the memories I made in Greece will forever remind me of this amazing opportunity I was given through the STEP program.



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